

# Little Free Press

#87

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FREE

## CHANNELLED BY MONEY?

They channel our lives with money. Prices we can't afford keep us out of certain channels, i.e., restrict us from having and doing certain things. Very cheap prices attract people with little money to certain channels . . . with many channels in between.

What about the channels that are still free? Have they as yet been unable to put a price on them or are they the bottom of the heap? Are they the cheapest of the cheap channels, where they store people until they wish to use them and then entice them out with higher wages? Do they even give them welfare money to keep them from rebelling?

Are there any free channels a rebel can take and not be controlled? Some of us live in the cheaper channels and use our surplus time and money to do something that we think will help make change in the system. Some just linger in the cheapest place; drinking, doping, listening to music and TV until s/he is needed in the labor market. This, of course, is the channel that the system entices non-workers into. It is a safe place to store rebels . . . they don't rock the boat.

Would it be a good idea to try to inspire these "sleeping rebels" with some ideas about things they can do with all their leisure time to speed-up our Evolution . . . instead of day dreaming about "Wait 'til we get the Big Depression" and "Come

the Revolution?" With their security of a welfare check and their 24 hours per day of free time, they could be the "leading force" that changes the System.

### What could they do?

1. Form "Free Skills Pools" with their friends and share their skills free of charge. Street People are already doing this. They share their information freely with each other about where to find free food, places to sleep, food stamp office, welfare office, where to catch freight trains, etc.

2. Have "Free Boxes" of their surplus stuff for their friends to choose from. Rummage sales are a form of (almost) Free Box, because prices are almost nothing (compared to new or second hand stores).

These two ideas would save some of their welfare money (or/and their savings), which would then enable them to spend money on promoting the "Evolution" to a more Utopian world. These ideas can be practiced on any level of income.

### How could they promote?

1. They could use their best talents (acting, speaking, writing, singing, etc.) to tell people about the Priceless Economic System (PES) (where everyone works as a volunteer and all products and services are free) that we can create and can tell (or show) them how we are even now creating it in our own lives.

### How we are doing it.

1. By realizing the mass media is mostly distorted facts and that its main purpose is "mind conditioning"

and by discontinuing to absorb it.

2. By not wasting our time with the many diversions the Profit System has set up to steal our time and money.

3. By not falling for the many "straw men" that are set up for us to knock down.

4. By getting rid of our surplus "things." They all take storage space and some require expense and time to maintain.

5. Some now use smaller cheaper living quarters which take less time and money to maintain.

6. By not "upgrading" as each new model and style come out.

7. By not trying to keep up with the Joneses.

8. By keeping our things in repair instead of buying new.

9. By buying at rummage sales instead of stores.

10. By buying from small merchants instead of Big Corporations. Their tradition has been to start out with lower prices until they drive the small stores out of business -- then they raise their prices very high.

11. By looking in dumpsters for useables and repairables for ourselves and our free box.

12. By living close to where we "do our thing" so that we don't need a car.

13. Walking instead of riding.

14. Paying as little rent as possible.

15. Staying out of debt.

16. Not using a credit card.

17. Getting rid of our



phone.

18. Eating basic foods instead of processed foods.

19. Some have bicycles instead of cars.

20. Give our love to people instead of to pets.

21. Some have stopped drinking, smoking and gambling to save money.

22. We share these ideas of freedom for the individual with our friends and whoever will listen.

23. We disregard government when we can and don't give it validity by voting and seldom support it with taxes.

We are doing these things to the degree that fits our need at the present time. We try to learn more about the PES and figure out more ways to share this information about the near Utopia that we are beginning to experience in our life. Just by being an example of a person who is more "Free" and enjoying life more . . . we are teaching.

#### WHAT'S HAPPEN'EN

In late March I got a distress call from one of my kids in California. So I drove out there and helped a little for five weeks.

Shortly after returning to my rent-free Utopia-in-a-sheep-pasture, I had a misunderstanding and disagreement with my rent-free landlord. It was not mentioned, but I suspect that because I had been giving "advice" to him and his wife (who are separated) I may have jeopardized my position there. I hope I have learned not to do that any more.

I then sold my trailer and divested myself of a store-room full of my junk at a flea market. I sold cheap and got rid of all my surplus stuff. I still had half a

van load of stuff, which included my computer.

#### Miami

At the end of June, with everything I owned, I took off in my van for Miami, to buy a sailboat and become a Gypsy of the Sea. \$200 worth of gas and a case of oil later, I arrived in Miami about July 4th. It was so damned hot, I didn't even get out of my van to kick any boat hulls. I turned around and drove to Minneapolis.

Next I decided to go up to the cool north shore and find a cheap place to rent and spend the summer writing. Grand Marais, MN, near Canada and on the shore of Lake Superior is a super clean little town with sparking tourist shops and streets almost clean enough to eat from. With all the clean and colorfully dressed tourist, it looked like a fine place to people watch and perhaps hand out LFP's. But alas, I could find nothing cheap to rent, so I spent the night parked at a way-side rest that had a sign that read, "No Camping. 4 hour maximum stay." But no one hassled me. I suppose I could have moved on to another one if they had. Next day I drove back to Minneapolis.

My dear old '79 Dodge van was now learning to chain-smoke and was drinking too much (one quart of oil per 100 miles). I took it to a treatment center (a junk yard) and collected \$75.

#### Toyota

At a repairable wreck yard, I had already lined up a wrecked '87 Toyota Tercel with only 38,000 miles on it for \$1,675. I bought that and searched and found a used door for \$200 and re-

placed the muffler. It still has a cracked windshield and dented front bumper and hood. But it sure is a honey of a car. I drove it back to California and got between 42 and 47 miles per gallon and used no oil. I've had it only about a month and have put on 9,000 miles.

I removed the passenger seat (4 bolts) and half of the split rear seat and laid in a piece of 5/8" plywood 6 1/2' x 2' for a bed. This has been my home for the past month or so. I have a one burner Primus propane stove for cooking.

#### Lake Cottage

I searched for about two months for a lake cottage that I could afford. I made many long trips, some as far as Calumet, Michigan (Upper Peninsula). I found two cottages in Minnesota that I may have been able to afford but I didn't like them. To get the kind of lake shore I wanted, it seemed obvious that I would have to re-enter the rat race to earn some more money. Then I asked myself if I wanted a lake cottage bad enough to get back into the rat race, after being free for 23 years. Then the answer was very easy. No! Definitely, no!

So then I focused my search for acreage, in Todd County and in the Cushing postal delivery area. I could find nothing I liked. So here I am, at another pivot point in my life. I had made a list of options that I liked. Two of them didn't work. So which one will I try next?

A successful business man once told me that about 80% of the ideas he tries, fail. But the 20% that succeeded have made him comfortably rich. People who are afraid to fail, never get much out of life. But, if we learn from



our failures we eventually get what we want. This may be true with love too.

My extra stuff is stored in a friend's warehouse and I go there and use my computer. I finally got all my data-entry caught up, so I can get at my mailing list for this issue's address labels. I hope I have everyone on it, who asked to be (and sent in their postage).

#### Car Life

When I first dropped out in 1969, it took me a while to get used to sleeping with all my clothes on, whenever I camped in a car. After a lifetime of undressing before going to bed, it was hard to change. But it is more convenient living in a car, to just leave all my clothes on when I sleep. I adjusted and now sleep fine.

If I was not at a motel, there was another thing that was difficult for me at first, and that was, "Where to toilet?" At present I use library, city park and cafe toilets. The 24 hour cafes and gas stations come in handy too. On the road I use free rest area, cafe, and gas station toilets. Woodsy and bushy areas work too. When I lived in my trailer I used a bucket with sand in the bottom in summer (leaves in the winter). I set an old wooden toilet seat on top of the bucket for a little more comfort. I either emptied the waste on the farmer's manure pile or buried it.

Finding a free parking place to sleep was not so hard. KOA wanted about \$12. per night, so I did that only once. I use rest areas and truck stops, when traveling.

Sometimes I treat myself to a cheap motel and take a shower and shampoo. I often wash my armpits in a rest

room and put on a clean shirt. I try not to dress in dark clothes because they tend to make one look mean and scary. Even with my long hair and beard most people are friendly toward me. Once I took a swim in Lake Superior, soaped up and washed my hair. It was very cold but it did the job.

Some cities charge about a hundred dollar fine, if they catch you sleeping in your vehicle parked on the street. During the days, I park on a side street where all-day parking is allowed for free. At night, when I sleep, I park in a friend's small parking space behind his store, after he goes home.

#### Scared

When I first started sleeping in my van I was very scared. I worried about a brake in, and being robbed and killed. I still had a lot of fear programming from the mass media. I finally figured that if I was killed that would be the end of all my worries, so what the Hell should I care. Anyway, I couldn't think of a reason anyone would want to kill me. I faced my fear and it disappeared. I don't believe there is a Heaven or a Hell (except the one we each create for our self, here and now) and I can tolerate pain, so I have no fear of death. But I don't look for it. I'm not ready to terminate . . . too many things to do and see yet.

I don't ask for trouble. I don't own anything that I can't afford to lose. Most of my stuff I got very cheap at yard sales or from dumpsters. Except for my computer. I do worry about that, if I have it stored in my car. It is about four years old and is slow, so it

is not hardly worth stealing anymore, nor is any of my other stuff. My car is banged up, has a cracked windshield and has an odd colored door. So no one bothers me.

#### Raped

Being raped has never worried me. I would probably enjoy it (it has been so long). When life gives you a lemon . . . make lemon aid. Women don't seem to feel this way about rape. They have to worry about getting pregnant. But they could carry a diaphragm or rubbers or stay home those three or four days they are fertile. They allow the "rape fear" to limit where they can go and what they can do.

Living in a car is not something I wish to do all my life. It is just a temporary lifeboat, until I find a place that feels right to settle. A sailboat may be only a temporary mode too. Perhaps a dream I need to try, to get it out of my system.

#### Eating

The eating habits I have used for the past ten years or more are very convenient and economical for me. For breakfast I have coffee and a roll or coffee and freshly ground cooked cereal or coffee, eggs and whole wheat toast and jelly. For my big meal at noon, I usually have only meat (red or white). Sometimes a beer or a drink while I'm frying the meat. About 1/4 to 1/3 of a pound seems to be plenty for my old body and mind. For supper I usually have a single vegetable or fruit. The only spices I use are salt and pepper. Sometimes between meals I have some sweets or whatever.

This simple diet makes my



shopping simple and cheap. It makes the cooking easy and the clean up very simple and quick. However I sometimes eat an old fashioned mixed meal. It doesn't seem to hurt me.

Years ago, I read in some health food-fad books that eating one kind of food at a time (and giving it time to digest) makes it easier for the digestive system to know which enzyme to secrete and thus be more efficient. All I can say is it seems to work because, I'm a very healthy old fart who eats little but who is getting fat. My cooking is easy and cheap.

At first in my travels I bought ice for my food cooler. Now I buy my meat fresh every day and buy small quantities of other perishables, so I save the ice expense and bother.

The coffee grinder I hold between my legs and the grain mill gets clamped to the bed, when I grind oat groats, field corn or wheat for breakfast gruel.

#### Drinking

When I was busy in the rat race trying to get ahead, I didn't take the time and waste money on drinking and smoking. After I made a little money and retired in 1969, I began to practice drinking. I practiced a lot and have finally learned when I've had enough to keep from getting silly or sick. Smoking, I took up about two years ago. I just have an occasional cigarette and a few more when I'm bored driving across country. My body seems able to handle this little poison.

#### Freedom

I'm trying to learn how to be free. I've learned lots of ways that I use. But I know

I have lots more to learn. One of my theories is, that if we would each liberate our self (as much as we can), we would soon all be free and there would be no one who could control us. When you take pay, you must obey. So the less we work for money the more free we are.

This theory would liberate each of us from the compulsion to liberate the "others." We can't change other people anyway. If I could only really convince myself of this! Then I could focus all my energy on learning how to play and enjoy my life. I have already learned and have put into practice ways of living very cheaply and with little hassle. [People with plenty of money have a different problem, I think. They don't have to spend less, but need to create more free time and learn ways to find happiness in that time. Some people with a lot of money allow this money to addict them to "winning the game" of making still more money. This can take up all their free time. This is sad, because free time is the space in which one may discover ones self and the true meaning of life, which at this point in time, I think, is just to be happy (without hurting anyone else)].

I hope to change my writing style to one of just recording my adventures and not try to sell people on doing it my way, I suppose I won't be able to refrain from dropping in a few of my thoughts.

Maybe my subconscious mind knows that if I bought a lake cottage or acreage it would tie me down. Perhaps it then finds faults with what I look at, trying to

guide me to what will make my heart sing. Some people call this inner guidance. Some call it God leading them. I don't know what it is, but it seems to work in strange ways sometimes.

I know this statement will bore the Hell out of some of you (I have made it so many times), but I think I'll take off for Miami again soon and see if my subconscious, Providence or fate is ready to allow me to become a Gypsy of the Sea.

#### Book

I WAS ROBOT (Utopia Now Possible), by Ernest Mann, published by Little Free Press. A pocket sized paperback book with 319 pages. Best of LFP over the past 20 years. Tells how I retired at age 42 and what I then learned about the System. Price \$7.95 postpaid. \$.50 extra for postage to other countries.

#### Second Book

I have a second book almost ready for publication, if I can find a publisher for it. I don't think I will publish this one myself. Know anyone who might like to do it?

#### LFP Purpose

To get people thinking, talking and arguing about the pros and cons of the Priceless Economic System.

#### Subscriptions

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If you think these ideas have any value and want to help, please have copies made and pass them on to thinking people. Think of the fun you can have and the good you may do!

9/18/91

Ernest Mann